

Inventing Everyday Items: Sunglasses

Adam & Eve were hardly on their feet
when God's Naughty-Naughty finger
shaved the sky.

Embarrassed, he clamped a fig leaf
to himself while Eve made hers
into a spunky little hat.

Adam began that lecture about
dress codes and the neighbors.
When he wouldn't shut up, Eve borrowed
the first garter snake she saw
and let him have it.

Under the clammy blows, Adam felt
his guilt loosen and slip away.
He wished Eve were stronger
and had used a python,

which made him grab two more leaves
and slap them over his eyes
so God could not see in
at such weird thoughts.

June Poem

Science 100 -- a gloomy place with the curse
of the Frog People on it. There sit my students
frowning at their poems as if they were drachma.
Each rises, reads, groans, changes his major.

But all get big sundaes of applause and we
walk outside into the graduated sun carrying
a smile big as a canoe.

Forgotten are those long hours in class, tedious
as Mother's Day. Forgiven the time I was mean
to that bunny poem, the one where it died
and went to Heaven. On skates.

Summer is idling just up the block, so we shake
hands or kiss clumsily while Fluffy smiles
down as he revolves on God's endless palm.